



Susan Bysiewicz
SECRETARY OF THE STATE
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**TESTIMONY OF SECRETARY OF THE STATE
SUSAN BYSIEWICZ
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
March 19, 2010**

Good Morning Chairman Lawlor, Chairman McDonald, ranking members and other distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee. For the record, my name is Susan Bysiewicz, and I am the Secretary of the State. Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in regard to the following bill.

HB 5523 AN ACT CONCERNING REENTRY

I respectfully oppose this bill because it asks the Office of the Secretary of the State to analyze, interpret and redistribute decennial federal census data in a manner that is inconsistent with the statutory mandates of this office and outside of the technological abilities of our current staffing levels.

HB 5523 would require the Office of the Secretary of the State to "adjust census data to count persons incarcerated in correctional institutions in the population count of the towns where they resided prior to incarceration..." In addition, it would require our office to: (1) Adjust all relevant population counts reported in the census, including populations by age, gender and race, as if the person resided at a place other than where they are current incarcerated on the date for which the census reports population; and (2) Eliminate the person from all applicable population counts reported in the federal decennial census for the geographic units that include the facility at which the person was confined on the date for which the census reports population. This Office has been the historical filing repository of this type of information in the past, but has never been required to interpret or manipulate such data.

Finally, we would suggest that this type of manipulation and reporting would be better placed in an agency or organization that is currently designed to accomplish such tasks such as the University of Connecticut, Connecticut State Data Center - Center for Population Research.

I thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony to you today and look forward to working with the committee on this and other important issues.